

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 10108

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN FR SHUM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS: FRENCH RESPONSE TO U.S. APPROACH

REF: PARIS 04339

EMBASSY MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS
WAS CALLED TO THE QUAI MARCH 23 TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE
FROM THE GOF CONCERNING APPROACH WE HAD MADE DURING
THE VISIT OF STATE/TREASURY TEAM REPORTED REFTEL.
BOCHET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION SERVICE AT
QUAI, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SPIRIT IN WHICH
U.S. OFFICIALS HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT AND FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. GOF UNDER-
STOOD USG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THE LINK
WITH THE ATTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES. THE GOF ACCEPTS
THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS QUESTION. IN FRANCE'S
OWN POLICY THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

2. BOCHET POINTED OUT THAT THE STATUTES OF THE WORLD
BANK EXPLICITLY RULE OUT CONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL
FACTORS. THE GOF BELIEVES THE LETTER OF THE STATUTES
SHOULD BE OBSERVED, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT WISH TO TAKE
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A HARD JURIDICAL POSITION. THE GOF ALSO BELIEVES IT IS
DIFFICULT TO DEFINE (IN TERMS THAT WOULD BE GENERALLY
ACCEPTABLE) CRITERIA FOR JUDGING THE PERFORMANCE OF
VARIOUS COUNTRIES. THE DONOR COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE
COMMON FOREIGN POLICIES AND ARE SUBJECT TO PARTICULAR
CONSTRAINTS IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES. A UNIFORM APPROACH IS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE.

3. GIVEN THE RESERVATIONS ON THESE TWO POINTS, IBRD STATUTES AND LACK OF COMMON POLICIES, THE GOF NEVER-THELESS BELIEVES COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE. THE FRENCH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IBRD IS BEING IN-STRUCTURED TO LISTEN TO CONCERNS WHICH THE US EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY CONVEY TO HIM REGARDING COUNTRIES OR PROJECTS. THE GOF CANNOT PROMISE IN ADVANCE WHAT THE RESPONSE IN EACH CASE MIGHT BE -- OR WHETHER INDEED A RESPONSE WOULD BE POSSIBLE -- BUT WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN THROUGH THIS CHANNEL. BOCHET SAID THIS POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN RAISED DURING PARIS DISCUSSIONS (REFTEL) AND AFTER REFLECTION THE GOF FELT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD METHOD.

4. THE ECON/COMM MINISTER THANKED BOCHET FOR RESPONDING AND FOR THE CARE WITH WHICH THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD EXAMINED THE SUBJECT. HE SAID WE WOULD REPORT THE FRENCH POSITION TO WASHINGTON WITH A REQUEST TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH WHATEVER COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY CARE TO MAKE.

HARTMAN

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